

Memorandum

DATE: November 1, 1967

Tolson _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

On 10-28-67 captioned individual telephonically requested an appointment with Mr. Tolson for the alleged purpose of discussing information concerning unnamed individuals who allegedly were planning to "smear our President." Pursuant to Mr. Tolson's instructions, Davidson was interviewed on Tuesday, 10-31-67, by SA Hobson Adcock and me.

Davidson told us he was recently approached by one Leonard Davidov whom he described as a business acquaintance who is President of Securities Associates, a Washington closed circuit and burglar alarm company. Davidov advised Davidson that an "Eastern group" was putting up a "ton of money" to learn the truth about the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Allegedly this group is working through one Hugh McDonald. Davidson said he understands that McDonald is a Police Commissioner in Los Angeles, California, and serves as a "body guard" for Barry Goldwater during the last Presidential campaign. Davidson advised that Davidov told him McDonald is currently engaged in some sort of business arrangement with Howard Hughes, the Las Vegas, Nevada, multimillionaire businessman, which concerns a sale of helicopters to law enforcement agencies. McDonald is alleged to know that President Lyndon B. Johnson had prior knowledge of the plans to assassinate President Kennedy and that one George DeMohrenschildt was part of this conspiracy and supposedly was instrumental in the training of Lee Harvey Oswald for the actual murder.

Davidson claimed he advised Davidov to have nothing to do with any attempt to "smear" President Johnson; however, he was unsuccessful because Davidov has been promised a share in the police helicopters business if he will help McDonald. Davidson said Davidov approached him for the purpose of learning about DeMohrenschildt's background. Davidson admitted he has already contacted one Edward Cohen whom he described as a former Washington Post reporter, for help. He explained that Cohen had once planned to write a book about the Kennedy assassination, however, he had never completed it. Davidson advised that Cohen has approximately 100 pages of research material available for review. Davidson volunteered that when he secured this data he planned to turn it over to the FBI for perusal. 12-109060-5837

1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Jones

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Bishop to DeLoach Memo
Re: I. IRVING DAVIDSON

INFORMATION IN BUREAU FILES:

Bufiles contain nothing pertinent concerning Leonard Davidov.

Hugh McDonald is undoubtedly identical with Hugh C. McDonald who retired on 1-17-67 as Chief of Detectives, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office. McDonald is a graduate in good standing of the 67th Session of the FBI National Academy. Bufiles indicate that news sources of 8-18-64 indicated that McDonald had been granted 90 days leave to act as a security officer for the Republican National Committee. His specific task was that of protecting Senator Barry Goldwater during the Presidential campaign. McDonald has always supported the FBI and often expressed his great admiration for it and for the Director. He is the inventor of the Identi-Kit, which is a process for using a series of negatives of facial characteristics which may be placed on top of each other to form a composite picture. This process is used to approximate a picture of a criminal for use of witnesses in identification.

George DeMohrenschildt, Polish born of Russian parents and a naturalized American citizen, is carried in Section B of the Reserve Index of our Dallas Office. He was a social acquaintance of Lee and Marina Oswald in Dallas prior to the assassination. Because of his Russian background, considerable speculation occurred during our investigation of the assassination that DeMohrenschildt might have been involved. Nothing was ever developed indicating this was so. In 1964 DeMohrenschildt took up residence in Haiti where he worked as a Consulting Engineer for the Government of that country. He returned to Dallas in November, 1966. DeMohrenschildt has been described as an unprincipled adventurer who has lived primarily by his wits. Married four times, he has been characterized as a braggart of poor moral character who has engaged in a number of illicit affairs.

The Edward Cohen mentioned by Davidson may be identical with Edward Stone Cohen who currently resides at 308 N Street, Southwest, Washington, D. C. He has never been the subject of an FBI investigation; however, our files indicate that Cohen allegedly was in contact this year with "Ramparts" magazine for the purpose of soliciting publication of an "expose" type of story on Overseas National Airways (ONA) and President Johnson's alleged association with it. Cohen was alleged to have indicated that many active and retired military officers are connected with ONA and Cohen felt such a story would create a big "smell" and would be most embarrassing to Mr. Johnson. In July, 1959, Edward Stone Cohen advised the State Department he planned to attend the Seventh World Youth Festival in Vienna, Austria, during the Summer of 1959. Our files further reveal that Wallace M. Cohen, Chevy Chase, Maryland, the father of Edward Stone Cohen,

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was a former member of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG), having resigned in November, 1939. The NLG has been cited as a communist front by the House Committee on Un-American Activities. According to Davidson, the Edward Cohen he contacted currently is employed by another Government agency and he believes it is the Office of Economic Opportunity.

OBSERVATIONS:

It was obvious to SA Adcock and me that Davidson had come to the FBI hoping to get information about DeMohrenschildt. We gave him nothing. He was advised that if he wished to submit Cohen's material on DeMohrenschildt for review, we would accept it.

Davidson is a registered agent for several foreign principals including the Governments of Indonesia and Haiti. He has described himself in the past as a "five percenter, out to make a fast buck." Bufiles reflect that he is an unsavory individual.

During yesterday's interview, he alleged his only concern was that of protecting President Johnson from being "smeared," however, it is strongly believed that his real motive was that of seeking information on DeMohrenschildt and McDonald. In support of this, it is noted that prior to coming to Bureau Headquarters he had already contacted Edward Cohen for background information on DeMohrenschildt and spent the previous weekend in Dallas, Texas, allegedly for the purpose of attending a football game. However, Dallas is also the residence of DeMohrenschildt.

This is not the first time we have received allegations concerning DeMohrenschildt. On 4-3-67, William L. Oltmans, Dutch representative in the U.S. of the Netherlands Television Company (NTC), contacted our New York Office and advised that NTC had received information from an informant in Western Europe that DeMohrenschildt was the principal organizer of the assassination of President Kennedy. It was alleged that DeMohrenschildt's brother, Dimitri, was a participant and possibly the second assassin who fired from the woods simultaneously with Oswald. According to Oltmans, NTC was making inquiries in the U.S. and planned to release a story to the public in the near future. Our files contain no derogatory information concerning Dimitri Von Mohrenschildt, brother of George. Dimitri was a professor of languages, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, at the time of the assassination.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

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